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Chinese III

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Chinese Dining Taboos

In China, there are various different things that nobody should ever do. One of these things is that chopsticks should never be pointed at anybody or fiddled with at the table. Also, chopsticks should never be stuck in the center of the rice as these gestures are seen as rude and unlucky, as this is what people do at funerals or religious ceremonies. Along with the idea of chopsticks, you must at least try to use them as they are traditional and have been used for thousands of years. Completely clearing your plate is also seen as rude due to the fact that it appears that you are still hungry and were not given enough to eat. Diners are also expected to sample each dish on the lazy Susan or table, to signify that you respect the host and show fortitude. But along with this, you must not pick dishes up off the table or lazy Susan as this would seem extremely rude and greedy, you may though, hands or put your hands in your mouth as this would be seen as gross. Instead of reach over others to get a serving of a dish. When eating you must also never eat with your using your hands to remove bones or gristle, use your chopsticks or a toothpick. Along with manners, it is proper and polite to offer other people to go ahead and serve themselves food or drink first, for if you didn’t do that, you would be seen as a pig and very greedy. Finally, you must always toast with both hands on the glass and it at shoulder height, as this shows the upmost respect and honor.